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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM.

REF: A) STATE 4533; B) MOSCOW 469

IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST CONTAINED REFTEL B, DEPARTMENT
SUMMARIZES BELOW INMARSAT HISTORY AS SET FORTH IN
DEPARTMENT'S A-46 OF JANUARY 6, 1975.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION
(IMCO) ESTABLISHED PANEL OF EXPERTS (POE) IN 1972
TO EXAMINE FEASIBILITY ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM TO SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OF
DISTRESS, SAFETY, AND PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE. U.S.
WITH APPROXIMATELY TWENTY OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING
USSR, PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL POE MEETINGS IN PAST
TWO YEARS. POE STUDIES INCLUDED TECHNICAL PARAMETERS,
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT
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OF SYSTEM. FINAL POE REPORT WHICH IS DUE BE SUBMITTED

TO APRIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON INCLUDED DRAFT CONVENTION FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. PRINCIPAL MATTERS AT ISSUE RELATE TO OWNERSHIP, INVESTMENT AND VOTING, ACCESS, AND PROCUREMENT POLICY INCORPORATED IN PROPOSED DRAFT CONVENTION.

FYI STATED BRIEFLY AND IN GENERAL TERMS, USG POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) OWNERSHIP - USG POLICY TO UTILIZE COMMERCIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND SERVICES. THUS U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MUST BE THAT FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES BE UNDERTAKEN BY USG DESIGNATED ENTITY (E.G. PRIVATE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS CARRIER OR CONSORTIUM FORMED BY GROUP OF CARRIERS).

B) INVESTMENT AND VOTING - TO INSURE SYSTEM FACILITIES AND SERVICES ARE SUFFICIENT, RELIABLE AND REASONABLY PRICED, USG BELIEVES EFFECTIVE SATELLITE SYSTEM MANAGEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY IF PARTICIPANTS' INVESTMENT AND VOTE ON OPERATING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS ARE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THEIR SYSTEM USE.

C) ACCESS - USG BELIEVES THAT USE OF SATELLITE SYSTEM SHOULD BE OPEN ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS.

D) PROCUREMENT - USG POLICY IS PROMOTION MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR SALE U.S. TELECOMMUNICATIONS HARDWARE AND SERVICES. THUS USG BELIEVES PROCUREMENT POLICY MUST BE BASED ON OPEN INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONS TO TENDER WITH AWARDS GOING TO BIDDER OFFERING BEST COMBINATION PRICE, QUALITY AND DELIVERY TIME.

PRESENT POE DRAFT CONVENTION DOES NOT SATISFY IMPORTANT U.S. OBJECTIVES ENUMERATED IN A), B), C) AND D) ABOVE. IN ADDITION, WE DOUBT PRESENT DRAFT CONVENTION CAN SATISFY OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SEPARATE PRESENT CONVENTION INTO TWO AGREEMENTS, E.G., AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND AN OPERATING AGREEMENT. STRUCTURE WOULD BE SIMILAR TO INTELSAT ARRANGEMENTS. END FYI

IN REFTEL A) DEPARTMENT PROMISED BRIEF SUMMARY OF USSR/MARAD TALKS RELATING TO MARITIME SATELLITES THAT EMERGED IN IMPLEMENTING 1973 TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO MARITIME SATELLITES WERE

RELATIVELY BRIEF BUT DEPARTMENT UNABLE SUMMARIZE
AT THIS TIME DUE TO ABSENCE FROM WASHINGTON OF MARAD
PRINCIPAL. HOWEVER, FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION AND ON
FYI BASIS, DEPARTMENT SUMMARIZES BELOW IMPRESSIONS
BASED ON SOME INFORMAL RECOLLECTION OF U.S. PARTICIPANTS
IN POE OF RUSSIAN POSITIONS TAKEN THAT FORUM.

BEGIN FYI USSR PROVIDED MAJOR IMPETUS CREATION NEW
ORGANIZATION WITH 1972 SUBMISSION OF DRAFT PAPER FOR
INMARSAT ORGANIZATION. INMARSAT WOULD HAVE OPTION
OF LEASING FACILITIES OR CREATING WHOLLY OWNED SPACE
SEGMENT. USSR BELIEVES RESPONSIBILITIES DEALING WITH
SAFETY OF LIFE, CERTAIN OUTER SPACE MATTERS, AND
FINANCIAL LIABILITY CAN ONLY BE RESPONSIBILITY OF
GOVERNMENTS AND NOT DESIGNATED PRIVATE ENTITIES.
INTELSAT WOULD NOT BE SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE TO INMARSAT
IN USSR VIEW BUT IT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO LEASE OF
SERVICES FROM INTELSAT. USSR QUESTIONED WHETHER
USG WOULD ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
DESIGNATED ENTITY AS WELL AS BROADER LIABILITY ASPECTS.
USSR SUPPORTS "ALL STATES" FORMULA FOR ORGANIZATION
MEMBERSHIP, RATHER THAN RESTRICTING TO MEMBERS OF
UN, IMCO, ITU, ETC. TWO IMPORTANT USSR OBJECTIVES
APPEAR TO BE:

A) SECURING MAJOR VOICE IN ANY ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED
TO PROVIDE MARITIME SATELLITE SERVICES; AND

B) TO SECURE SOME MEASURE OF VISIBLE INDUSTRIAL
PARTICIPATION AND PRESUMABLY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE.
END FYI

DEPARTMENT REPEATS THAT ABOVE SUMMARY OF USSR ATTITUDES
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IS INFORMAL AND HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF ALL USG AGENCIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN POE MEETINGS. KISSINGER

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